AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A therapeutic HCV vaccine composition consisting of a therapeutically effective amount of at least one HCV single or specific oligomeric envelope E1 protein; and at least one of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant or vehicle, said E1 protein consisting of amino acids 192-326 of the HCV polyprotein.

17. (Previously Presented) A therapeutic HCV vaccine composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a combination of at least two HCV single or specific oligomeric envelope E1 proteins wherein said at least two E1 proteins are derived from different HCV genotypes, subtypes or isolates; and at least one of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant or vehicle, said E1 proteins consisting of amino acids 192-326 of the HCV polyprotein.

Claims 18-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according claim 17 wherein said E1 protein is produced by a recombinant host.

22. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claim 21 wherein said recombinant host is a recombinant mammalian cell, a recombinant yeast cell or a recombinant virus.

23. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claim 17 which is therapeutically effective in a mammal infected with a HCV genotype or subtype homologous to the HCV genotype or subtype, or HCV genotypes or subtypes, from which said E1 protein or proteins are derived.

24. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claim 17 which is therapeutically effective in a mammal infected with a HCV genotype or subtype heterologous the HCV genotype or subtype, or HCV genotypes or subtypes, from which said E1 protein or proteins are derived.

25. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claim 17 wherein the cysteines of said HCV envelope E1 proteins are blocked.

26. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claim 17 to which said HCV envelope E1 proteins are added as viral-like particles.

Claims 27-29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) A method for clearing HCV viral antigens from the liver of an HCV-infected mammal comprising administering a therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claims 16 to 17 to said mammal, ~~The method according to claim 29~~ wherein said HCV viral antigens are HCV Core and/or HCV E2 antigens.

Claims 31-42. (Canceled)